reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Checking Deficit in Oil Pool Account

†114. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that deficit in Oil Pool is continuously increasing despite heavy increase in price of diesel;

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to check this deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The cumulative outstandings of the oil companies from the Oil Pool Account are estimated to be around Rs. 6,000 crores as on 31.3.2000.

(c) The position of the Oil Pool Account is monitored on a continuous basis and remedial measures taken to contain the deficit.

Regularisation of Contract Employees with Diploma Degrees

115. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to answer to Starred Question No. 271 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1999 and state:

(a) whether EIL have regularised the services of several contract employees/daily wage employees having diploma in engineering after the presentation of Third and Fourth Pay Commission Reports; and

(b) if so, the details of such appointments, year-wise with service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.